A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, March 8. 1712.

LOoking over the Printed Votes a few Days ago, and being Naturally apt to enquire into the Merits of any Cause, which comes before that Honourable House, relating to Trade, I obſerv'd a very remarkable Petition, Preſented in the Names of ſundry Merchants of the Cities of *London* and *Briſtol*, for the Encouragement of the Manufacture of BRASS, in this Kingdom.

I acknowledge, that the very Surface of the Thing in the Votes, form'd many rough Ideas in my Crown, about the ſtrange Variety and extenſive Signification of this Thing: A Manufacture of BRASS, ſaid I to myſelf; this muſt be ſome Project of the *October-Club* ſure, for none have ſo much uſe for it as they; but then again it occurr'd immediately, that the famous Society lately ſo call'd, and whoſe Hiſtory in 2 Volumes lately gave us ſuch Diverſion, had ſuch a vaſt Stock of that by them, and were indeed Founded upon a Podeſtal of that Metal in it's utmoſt Perfection, I thought then, the Petition might be againſt the *October-Club*, and that the Prayer of the Petition might be for a Bill, to preſent their Re-

greting

groſſing the Commodity and make it a Monopoly.

Immediately I thought of ſearching the *Patent Office*, to ſee if there were no Charter granted, for Incorporating the ſaid Society, by the Name and Stile of *The Governour and Company of the* Oſtober-Men, *Employ'd in the Fining, Poliſhing, and Improving of the ſeveral Manufactures of Braſs Politicks in* Great Britain.

In this ſearch, indeed, I could not find ſo much Progreſs was made in the Thing, as to bring it to the Seals, but found a Society very earneſt in preparing Things for that purpoſe, of whom I may give a farther Account hereafter.

It may not be wonder'd, if I am a little particular at the Diligence I ſee uſed, for the Recovering and Enlarging ſo Uſeful a Manufacture, and a little of the Hiſtory of it may not be improper.

It is particular in the Honour of our Anceſtors, that this is not an *Engliſh* Original—— 'Tis true, we are generally ſaid to be better at Improving than Inventing, and it may be, we have brought the Art of Working in hard Metal, and ſuch Affairs, to a very great Perfection —— It ſeems, by *the Petitioners Caſe*, that formerly, much of our Foreign Braſs was only call'd Metal-Prepar'd, which was hammer'd and finiſh'd here; but now they alledge all is our own Manufacture, and made of our own Produce; the Ore is our own, and all the Mixtures of which it is Compounded, and out of this, the ſeveral kinds of Braſs are Hammer'd, Faſhion'd, and brought to an extraordinary Perfection, ſuited to every Occaſion, whether of *Sexes* or *Parties*, whether in Converſation, Intrigue, Buſineſs, Politicks, or moſt of the common Affairs of Life.

If any Tradeſmen have Occaſion to borrow Money a Day or two before they break; Merchants to under-write Policies of Aſſurances at all Hazards, knowing they can never pay the Loſs; Stock-Jobbers to ſell Bear-Skins, Mariners to commit Barratry, Sea-Captains to Enſure, and then knock the Ship on the Head; *Cuſtom-Houſe-Officers* to ſtop Merchants Goods without Breach of Forms; Merchants to take *Cuſtom-Houſe-Oaths*, and the like, a thriving Manufacture of *Engliſh Braſs*, may furniſh them with *Metal-Prepar'd*, whether for the Forehead or any other part of the Face, ſuch as ſhall be moſt ſuitable to the Occaſion.

If Madam *L*—— has Occaſion to keep the Lieutenant Colonel ſo long till her Husband is coming Home, and finds it needful to help him over the Garden-Wall, which the Jealous C——d happened to ſee as he came in, at the nick of it, a good Stock of true *Engliſh OA R* might help her in the very Moment to cry *Thieves*, and make all the Houſe, Huſband, and all, purſue to catch a Thief, who had Stole nothing, but what, if they found him, he could not reſtore.

This New Manufacture cannot but be very Uſeful to our Politicians *of every Party*, when they find it for their preſent Occaſion, to raiſe Mobbs, carry Elections, Burn Meeting-Houſes, ſacrifize Friends, break Unions, *and the like*, but more eſpecially is it Uſefull to be ſent into *Scotland* at this Time, where the *Jacobite Clergy* may very much want it, in order to Strengthen their Faces, and *Caſe-harden* their Conſciences, according to the Practice of their *Engliſh* Brethren; that they may effectually, and without Fooliſh Scruples, impertinent Bluſhes, or Conſcientious Palpitations, *take the Abjuration*, and yet pray for *James* VIII. That they may pray for Queen *Anne*, and Curſe her in their Hearts; and that they may take all the Oaths Twenty Parliaments can make, at the ſame Time preſerving their Allegiance to their *Popiſh* Prince, whoſe Intereſt they may not ceaſe to propagate upon all Occaſions.

No Man can, in the ſhort compaſs of this Paper, expreſs the Ineſtimable Value of this bright and glorious *Engliſh* Manufacture, which, in its modern Uſes, is grown *as it was in Solomon's Time*, much more Valua-

Valuable than Gold, especially when it is apply'd to prove the Union Alterable by the Parliament, the *Presbyterian* Church not Establish'd by the Treaty, the Privileges of the Church of *Scotland* to be taken away without Breach of the Articles, *altho' they say expressly, that all their Privileges shall remain to them without any Alteration for ever*; all which is as plain, and may, by the help of a little of this *Metal-Prepar'd*, be Advanc'd and Defended, in spite of Sense, Reason, Faith, Law, Treaty, or what else the Wit and Invention of Men can offer to the contrary.

By the Help of BRASS, the Magistrates of *N——Castle* can Petition to have the Voluntary Charitable Contribution of the Poor Keel-Men, *turn'd into a Tax upon them*, and the Money which is paid out of their *Day-Labour*, to keep the Poor from the Parishes, put into the Government of those very Men that have Embez'zled the Poor's Money, and Starved them before.

By the Help of Brass, (*tho' by the Way, not without a damnable Quantity*) the Fitters and Hoast-Men at *New Castle* can draw up a Petition to the *Parliament*, that they may not be call'd to Account for the Poor's Money, which they have *Wasted* and *Embezled* —— But sure it must be beyond the Power of *Brass* itself, for them to deliver it to the House of Commons.

Wonderful are the Effects of this New-Manufacture, of Metal Prepar'd, in the City; *viz.* In Election of Aldermen, in *Ward-motes*, Choice of Common-Council Men, in *Mandamus* Prosecutions, in Fishing, and Birding, *Anglicè* picking of Pockets for Fines about Sheriffs, *&c.* in Feasting with Orphans Money, in Polling for Members, breaking Windows, making Bonfires, drinking to Sheriffs, packing Juries, and the generality of *Corporation Oeconomy*.

I should not omit some remaining Uses of this Metal, particular such as are necessary in *Debauch'd Justices* punishing Vice; in Perjur'd Magistrates sitting on the Bench of Justice; in Brib'd Constables selling the Souls of Men when they raise Recruits; in partial Assessments of Parish and National Taxes; together with Pulpit-Brass, Altar-Brass, Cathedral-Brass, and I reckon some Occasional-Brass among Honest Men, that I hope are a going to part with it; but of all these hereafter.

If it should be asked of me, whether this Manufacture I am speaking of, this *Metal-Prepar'd*, be Whig or Tory, my Answer is, it is BRASS, the Tories can answer the rest for themselves.

It would indeed require some Time, and be very useful to look farther into the needful Quantity of *this Metal*, and how the same stands proportion'd to *several Complexions*; as how much qualified a *Vintner* to put off his nauseous Brew'd Compositions, and call it Wine; to Christen his pretended Wines with innumerable hard Names, and then clap *six pence* a Bottle upon you for the *Variety*; how much Brass, and how Polish'd, is requisite to Recover the Vintners from the Blow given them lately, by *News* and *Natural*, and enable them to look up again, in spight of *Brook* and *Hellier*.

I might state also the the just Proportions of this Vehicle, and how requisite it may be in an *Author*; how much more is necessary to Constitute a *Poet* than a *Pamphleteer*, and a *Satyrist* than a *Comedian*; and if I thought it would not be taken amiss, I might make some Calculations for the Instruction of the Ingenious, as to *News-Writers*, *Examiners*, *Post-Boys*, whether *Protestant* or *Pagan*, *Observators*, &c. and *Reviews*, too, for why should not a good Man come in for a Share with his Neighbours?

As to the Personal Stock of our Friend *Abel*, the Reverend Dr. *S*—— and the like, I shall adjourn them, to be brought in with their Allies of St. *Germains*, when we come to speak of their Pleni-potentiaries *Utrecht*, and the Progress of the Peace: In short, Whores, Priests, and Horse-Scourers, claim a good Share in the Metal we speak of; upon Account therefore of all these and several others, we cannot but hope

hope the Brass Manufacture in Britain, may meet with good Encouragement from the Publick.

As to the particular Case before the House of Commons, I have not Room to meddle with it now, only I think it merits so much to be Encouraged, that I believe there are few will have Brass enough to Petition against it.

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